

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/069,051

Applicant(s)

ROSENBAUM, WALTER

Examiner

Art Unit

Romain Jeanty

3623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/06/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

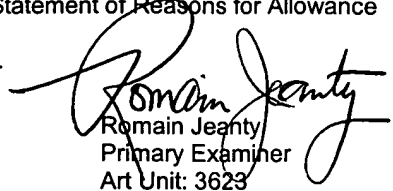
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


Romain Jeanty
Primary Examiner
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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with John P. Musone on January 18, 2007.

This following listing will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method for the dispatch of ordered articles, comprising:
ordering of different articles from a mail-order firm or one or more online suppliers
by a customer;

storing relevant order data and customer details including name and address in a
database of a dispatch center of a dispatch service, wherein the dispatch service is configured to
coordinate outward delivery times from the manufacturers/suppliers to achieve delivery of the
different articles to the customer in one shipment;

transferring or forwarding the order data from the customer in question to the relevant
manufacturers/suppliers of the requested articles;

notifying the dispatch center of the dispatch service of the earliest possible outward
delivery time t_{OutM} for each of the manufacturers/suppliers, and storing the earliest possible
outward delivery time t_{OutM} under the respective article number in the database at the dispatch
service;

determining the latest of the earliest possible arrival times of the articles at the dispatch

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center t_{ArrD} , each arrival time being calculated by adding the respective transport time $t_{TransMD}$ to the earliest possible outward delivery time t_{OutM} ;

the dispatch service notifying each manufacturer/supplier for the order concerned of the outward delivery time to be achieved, which is obtained from the latest of the earliest possible arrival times at the dispatch center t_{ArrD} minus the respective transport time from the manufacturer/supplier to the dispatch center;

determining an earliest possible delivery time t_{DelC} to the customer by adding the transport time between dispatch center and customer $t_{TransDC}$ onto the latest arrival time t_{ArrD} , and then adding a handling time at the dispatch service;

the manufacturers/suppliers sending out the ordered articles to the dispatch center at the notified times; and

forwarding the different articles in one shipment to the customer so that the customer receives the shipment at the determined earliest possible delivery time t_{DelC} .

2. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

the dispatch service notifying the customer of at least one proposal $P_{tDelC} \geq t_{DelC}$ for the delivery time, for confirmation;

the customer notifying the dispatch service of the confirmed delivery time C_{tDelc} ; and postponing the outward delivery times to be achieved by the manufacturers/suppliers on the basis of the earliest possible delivery time to the customer, by the time difference between the confirmed and the earliest possible delivery time.

3. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the dispatch service is notified of the transport times t_{TransMD} between the manufacturers/suppliers and the dispatch center, together with the earliest possible outward delivery times t_{OutM} , and the information saved in the database.

4. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein in order to determine the current transport times t_{TransMD} between manufacturer/supplier and dispatch center, these times are calculated, saved and statistically analyzed on a continuous basis.

5. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a single online supplier, which co-ordinates the dispatch, leads to several sub-online suppliers.

6. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the earliest outward delivery times of the articles from the manufacturers/suppliers are compared with each other, and where a set time difference between the earliest outward delivery times is exceeded the articles are not sent jointly to the customer.

7. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the size of the articles and their characteristics are also saved in the database, if required this information is checked in order to ascertain whether these articles can be sent in one parcel, and they are dispatched in one parcel if a positive result is obtained from the check.

8. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein where there are several possible manufacturers/suppliers for a specific article a selection is made on the basis of the shortest possible transport distances to the customer and/or the earliest possible outward delivery times.

9. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the customer selects the dispatch service.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-9 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art is to Stolfo et al (US 2004/0002903) and Tsukuda (US 6,085,170).

Stolfo teaches a method for the dispatch of articles where order data and customer details are saved in a database of a dispatch center of a dispatch, and Tsukuda teaches a delivery managing system for supporting delivery of purchased goods or commodities from a distribution center to a purchaser when purchased through an on-line shopping service and/or a mail order system. However, the combination of Stolfo and Tsukuda fails to teach determining an earliest possible delivery time t_{DelC} to the customer by adding the transport time between dispatch

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center and customer $t_{TransDC}$ onto the latest arrival time t_{ArrD} , and then adding a handling time at the dispatch service.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a. Hall et al (Scheduling With Fixed Delivery Dates) disclose a method for effectively defining a fixed delivery date for a product.

b. Kawakasu (US 2001/0037252), discloses a method for placing and accepting orders of commodities.

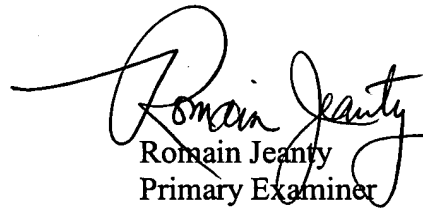
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Romain Jeanty whose telephone number is (571) 272-6732. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 7:30 am - 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq R. Hafiz can be reached on (571) 272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

January 18, 2007


Romain Jeanty
Primary Examiner
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